

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 601

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Kathleen Elam of Union City.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Kathleen Elam; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Elam will be long remembered for her generous financial gifts and commitment of time and energy to the University of Tennessee at Martin and to countless local and regional projects; and

WHEREAS, thanks to her generous donation to the Obion County Public Library, its patrons enjoy a start-of-the-art facility, opened in 2003, as well as the largest public collection of print and non-print items in West Tennessee outside of Jackson and Memphis; and

WHEREAS, the Obion County Public Library represents only one of her many acts of philanthropy, which she pursued with rare enthusiasm and a deep sense of purpose; and

WHEREAS, born June 10, 1914, in Corinth, Mississippi, Kathleen Elam was the daughter of the late Thomas Culden and Mary Utley Hyneman; in 1946, she married Thomas French Elam, her devoted partner in life and philanthropy until his passing on March 9, 1998; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Elam was a homemaker, and during World War II, she served as a supervisor for the United States Treasury Department; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1960s, Mr. and Mrs. Elam played a pivotal role in securing the location of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company plant in Union City, and that plant is still in operation today, providing jobs for the people of Union City and Obion County; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Elam's lifetime, the University of Tennessee at Martin benefitted greatly from the couple's largess; in 1996, the Elams gave UT-Martin a one-million-dollar

donation, and the school named its physical education building the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center in their honor; and

WHEREAS, after Mr. Elam's death, Kathleen Elam continued to focus much of her prodigious philanthropic effort on the university, donating over two million dollars to the school; and

WHEREAS, UT-Martin's football program received the bulk of the money; thanks to a challenge grant, which comprised a large portion of the overall funds, the program is now housed in the new Bob Carroll Football Building, which stands at the south end of Graham Stadium; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Elam also provided substantial funds to the baseball, softball, and basketball programs, as well as the Hall of Fame and the nursing program; even as she was donating generously to UT-Martin, she was giving money to a host of other worthy causes and institutions as well; and

WHEREAS, to the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity at UT-Martin, she gave a generous donation for a scholarship endowment and its annual Push for St. Jude; she also donated to the Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis, the Boys and Girls Club of Northwest Tennessee, Union City's Masquerade Theatre, the Union City Schools Foundation, Freed-Hardeman University, and Lexington Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, an avid gardener, Kathleen Elam pledged an endowment for the gardening committee that was planning a spectacular display at Discovery Park of America, under development near the Goodyear plant in Union City; and

WHEREAS, she pledged her time to a host of community organizations, including The Review Club, Union City's City Beautiful Commission, and the University of Tennessee Development Council, in addition to several other university committees; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of Mrs. Elam's selflessness and generosity, Congressman John Tanner read a tribute into the Congressional Record in 2004, immortalizing the West Tennessee philanthropist in the annals of the nation's legislative body; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen Elam was an active and devout member of the Union City First Christian Church, which she served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Elam was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, she is survived by her sister-in-law, Martile Hyneman; her four nieces, Lisa Ball, Karen Brown, Carolyn George, and Betty Smith; her four nephews, Marty Irving Hyneman, Thomas Culden Hyneman III, Randy Hyneman, and William Hunter Mountjoy; seven great-nieces; and seven great-nephews; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Elam was preceded in death by her husband, her two brothers, Richard Irving Hyneman and Thomas Culden Hyneman, Jr.; her sister-in-law, Dora Lee Hyneman; her godson, Tommy Tanner; and her nephew, Ricky Hyneman; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen Elam leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional philanthropist and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Kathleen Elam, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Elam.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.